

ASSESSOR

In 2012, the second of a five year project for data verification was completed. There were 400 properties of the 1,993 were visited to verify that the data that was currently on file at the Town was accurate. As an alternative to hiring an outside firm that lacks familiarity with the Town, the Town Assessor conducted the project. The end result will be that every property in town will have been visited and verified for data accuracy prior to the mandated 2015 update of values.

In addition to the data verification process we continue to strive to improve the department's efficiency and public relations. One of our goals is to inform property owners of the various items that we have to offer. The office has multiple options for the public to acquire information regarding all properties in Newton. By visiting the office you are able to obtain property ownership and assessment information over the counter or by using the public computer. The public computer contains current assessment information on every property in town, including previous and current sales information, acreage, sketch of the structure, flooring, roof type, and other details relating to the property. You can also visit the Assessing Department's website at www.newton-nh.gov, where you will find a list of all offered programs including the criteria to qualify for the elderly, disabled and blind exemptions, and the veteran or veteran's surviving spouse credit. Currently there are 151 properties that receive a Veteran's Credit totaling \$81,800 in tax dollars, with an additional \$1,585,500 in exemptions. Additionally, you will find the Town's annually updated tax maps on the website where you can print selected maps in their entirety or a mere section which can be enlarged for printing.

As the Town Assessor, I am committed to ensure that all 1,993 parcels with a total assessed value of \$472,847,537 are assessed fair and equitable in accordance with New Hampshire laws governing taxation.

Coming in 2013 the Assessing Department will be hosting a presentation on the elderly and disabled exemptions and the veteran's credits that are offered. For more information contact the assessing office or visit our website around February 20, 2013 for the dates and times.

In conclusion, I will reiterate that my door is always open and I welcome anyone with questions, concerns or comments. I also want to thank the Town of Newton for the opportunity to be your Assessor since the year 2000.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea S. Lewy, CNHA
Town Assessor

NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 2012 the Newton Historical Society celebrated the 41th anniversary of its founding in 1971. The society was officially incorporated two years later in 1973.

- ✿ The major project of accessioning / cataloging our documents and artifacts continued. In the spring of 2012 our Archivists turned their attention to the items at the Primary School Museum. Items on the tables have been completed and most of the items in the display cases and on the walls have been completed.

The accessioning process is complex and time consuming. The process entails documenting full descriptions of what the items are and their dimensions, color, who donated them, where they are currently located and other pertinent information. All this information is entered by hand into the computer. Then, photos or scans of the items are taken and attached to the accession information in the specialized computer program. In some instances, multiple photos or scans are required for a single item.

When the initial project is completed, all items should be accessible on the computer and lookups will be possible by object category and object name. Obviously this will be an ongoing process as we continually receive new artifacts.

- ✿ The Fall Festival fund raiser was again held in mid October, on a lovely fall evening, hosted and sponsored by the Merrimac Savings Bank. Although we still suffer from a soft economy, this year's festival yielded the highest net profit in the six years we have been conducting the event. Thanks to all our sponsors and attendees.
- ✿ For the second consecutive year the society conducted a Christmas tree lighting ceremony. The event took place on Sunday Dec. 9 at the Primary School Museum. Like last year a large turnout of adults and children enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate. Santa Claus and his Elf were also on hand to hear what the children were hoping to get for Christmas.
- ✿ Two historical type presentations were held at the town hall. A talk and slide show on the "Old Man of the Mountain", and a presentation entitled, "Newton, why does it exist". Both were very entertaining and very well attended. Three presentations have already been scheduled for April, July and September of 2013.
- ✿ The two town museums, the Marshall House and the Village Primary School museums were opened to the public in June and September.

"History is what you make it"

NEWTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY newtonhistoricalsoc@comcast.net - 603-382-0949

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Landry – President
Newton Historical Society